TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

1966

REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year ending
31st December, 1966.

GREAT TORRINGTON:
Printed by ALAN FREY, Printer, Stationer,
4, Well Street.

TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Torrington Rural District for 1966

By

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and

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Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

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Additional Public Health Inspector :—
T. S. Walker, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (to October)
B. J. Dean, M.A.P,H.I. (from November)

Council Chambers,
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
TORRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the annual report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the area.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS.

May, 1967.

Torrington Rural District

1966

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	79,803
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)	7,300
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,589
Rateable Value	£111,745
Sum realised by a Penny Rate	£468

VITAL STATISTICS

Area Comparability Factors	Births 1.19 Deaths 0.92
Live Births	111
Rate per 1,000 population	15.20
Rate per 1,000 populatian adjusted	18.09
Illegitimate Live births percent of total Live Births	9%
Still Births	1
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	8.9
Total Live and Still Births	112
Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	Nil
Infant Mortality Rates:	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	Nil
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	Nil
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil
Neo Natal Mortality Rate (death under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	Nil
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate (death under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	Nil
Peri Natal Mortality Rate (Still Births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	Nil
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	Nil
Number of Deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	Nil
Deaths	100
Death Rate per 1,000 population	13.7
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted	12.6

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS (

Cause of Death	Sex	Tota All Ag
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	3
	F	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	1
	F	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	—
	F	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	7
	F	3
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	2
	F	—
Diabetes	M	1
	F	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System...	M	3
	F	6
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	14
	F	8
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	1
	F	—
Other Heart Disease	M	9
	F	4
Other Circulatory Disease	M	5
	F	5
Influenza	M	—
	F	1
Pneumonia	M	2
	F	1
Bronchitis	M	1
	F	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1
	F	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	2
Congenital Malformations	M	1
	F	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	M	2
	F	5
All Other Accidents	M	3
	F	1
Suicide	M	2
	F	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	60
	F	40

LIFE DURING 1966 IN THE RURAL DISTRICT.

Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	Age in Years								
		1–	5–	15–	25–	35–	45–	55–	65–	75 and Over
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	5	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	5
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	1	—	—	3	3	6	21	26
—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	3	11	20

BIRTHS

During the year there were 111 live births as compared with 104 in 1965.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	49	52	101
Illegitimate	4	6	10
Still Births			
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

DEATHS

The total number of deaths of Rural District residents during the year was 100 as compared with 89 in 1965. There were no infant deaths under the age of 1 year, and there were no deaths of women in childbirth.

Male - 60 Females - 40 Total - 100

Cancer Deaths

There were 18 deaths from cancer during the year.

	Males	Females
Stomach	3	-
Lung and Bronchus	1	-
Breast	-	3
Uterus	-	1
Others	7	3

Infectious Diseases Notified

Scarlet Fever	9
Acute Pneumonia	13
Whooping Cough	13
Measles	50
Dysentry	1
Sal. Typhi Murium	1

The Salmonella Typhi Murium occurred in a Kennel-man who received three sheep from a local farm which had died - cause of death was unknown at the time. The sheep were cut into sections by the Kennel-man and fed to the hounds. Unfortunately, the Kennel-man became infected. No fatalities occurred amongst the hounds.

There were no cases of lung tuberculosis reported during the year. The last notified case was in 1963.

Food Poisoning

No instances of food poisoning were reported.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

This Act deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their homes to County Welfare Homes if they are in need of care and attention. No persons were removed under this Act during the year.

Brucella Abortus in Milk

Positive milk samples for Brucella Abortus Organisms were reported from three farms during the year. None of the milk was sold locally, but was pasteurised at the Torridge Vale Dairies. The farmers concerned were advised regarding the boiling of milk which they used for their own families.

Salmonella Infection

Seven farms were notified as having salmonella infection amongst calves during the year. The majority of the farms were engaged in cattle rearing and no dairy herds were kept. On farms where there were dairy herds, the farmer was advised regarding the danger of spread of infection to the herds and to the milk.

Annual Report of Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

DETAILS OF VISITS

Dwellings inspected under Housing & Public Health Acts	115
Re-inspections under Housing & Public Health Acts	98
Keeping of Animals	13
Offensive accumulations	18
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	1
Number of Rooms disinfected	—
Visits to Factories & Workshops	73
Visits to Bakehouses	14
Visits to Schools	4
Food Inspections (other than meat)	6
Visits to Food Preparing Premises (other than meat)	133
Number of Water Samples	16
Number of Milk Samples	1
Building Inspections under Bye-laws	951
Visits to Council Houses	510
Defective Drains	116
Drains examined	333
Plans investigated	322
Petroleum inspections	14
Dirty Houses	—
Sewage Works	455
Improvement Grants (No. of visits & re-visits)	404
Caravan Sites	24
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1965 inspections	51
Visits to council building sites	247
Visits to Refuse Tips	63
Deinfestations	—
Boarding Kennels	6
New Sewage Schemes	121
Noise Abatement	—
Advertisement Control	10
Swill Boiling Plants	1
Brucellosis Enquiries	5
Food Delivery Vehicles inspected	5

FACTORIES ACT, 1961. Part I of the Act.

1 INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. Non-Power	16	21	20	–
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ... Power	33	52	54	–
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ... ... Building sites etc.	39	39	–	–
TOTAL	88	112	74	NIL

2 CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred: To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred: By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)

Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)...					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(*a*) Insufficient	1				
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	8				
(*c*) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)					
TOTAL	9	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134). Part VIII of the Act.

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.	30	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects 115

(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 2

(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 74

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action 44

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

Number of Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority 28

Improvements carried out and nuisances abated :—

External	*No. of Premises*
Walls repaired	28
Roofs repaired	24
Guttering repaired	25
Downspouts repaired	19
Chimneys repaired	17
Water supply laid on houses	11
New pumps provided	1
Wells cleansed	2
Well steinings repaired	—
New lengths drain laid	145
Defective drains repaired	53
New inspection chambers	127
Septic tanks repaired	4
New septic tanks	19
New gullies	91
New W.C.'s	61
Water Supply laid on to W.C.'s	9
W.C. cisterns renewed	11
New washing accommodation	—
Outbuildings repaired	5

Internal	*No. of Premises*
Walls replastered	27
Ceilings replastered	19
Windows repaired	26
Doors repaired	15
Floors repaired	19
Cooking appliances repaired or renewed	24
New sinks....	14
New sculleries	4
Baths installed	31
Food storage improved	19
Stairs repaired	10
Hot water systems fixed....	27

New Housing Accommodation

Number of new houses erected by local authority	22
Number of new houses erected by private enterprise	34

Council Housing Programme

During the year 20 two bedroomed and 2 one bedroomed bungalows were completed and a further 12 were under construction The Council now owns 230 houses and bungalows.

Applications were received for :-

1 Discretionary Grant.
36 Standard Grants.

11 Discretionary Improvement grants were completed during the year bringing the total up to 177. In addition 38 standard grants were completed bringing the total up to 280.

The total expenditure to the end of the year was :—

Discretionary grants	£59,585
Standard grants	£37,723
	£97,308

This means that 22% of properties in the district over 12 years old have now been improved.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Caravans

Residential caravans do not present much of a problem at the moment. There are only 3 licensed sites for single caravans. In addition there are a few individually sited vans within the curtilage of dwellings used by the occupiers as permitted under the Act. There are also 2 exempt sites used by the Caravan Club and the Camping Club but these appear to be little frequented. There are 3 licensed sites—one at Seckington, Winkleigh, one at Smytham, Little Torrington and one at High Bickington. In the case of the Winkleigh site there has been some illicit use for residential purposes in breach of the site licence and planning consent.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Council operates a fortnightly refuse collection covering most of the area except for a few isolated farms and cottages. The vehicle used is a diesel-operated Karrier Gamecock manned by two collector-drivers. The refuse is disposed of on three tips at the moment at Winkleigh, Shebbear and Roborough. The vehicle also collects the refuse from litter bins in the villages and on roadside lay-byes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The villages of Winkleigh, Shebbear, Sheepwash, Taddiport. St. Giles-in-the-Wood, Kingscott, Roborough, Petrockstowe, Merton, Yarnscombe, Stibb Cross, Little Torrington, Ashreigney, and Hollacombe are now equipped with modern sewerage and sewage disposal systems. Work is due to commence at Weare Giffard in January. Detailed plans are now being prepared for Dolton. Other villages requiring schemes to complete the Council's programme are High Bickington, Langtree, Beaford, Riddlecombe and Frithelstock.

These villages have primitive sewage systems at the moment which are obsolete and very unsatisfactory. Nuisance is frequently caused by unsatisfactory septic tank effluent disposal and crude discharges. The progress of modernisation is much too slow and should be speeded up.

WATER SUPPLIES

The area is very well served by the North Devon Water Board via a network of mains and all villages and hamlets are supplied. Only remote dwellings now rely on shallow wells for a supply.

The following new connections were made during the year :

59 Domestic 40 Trade

The total number of premises now connected to the mains is :

1,766 Domestic 311 Trade

(*excluding farm houses*)

There are no standpipes in the district.

The following is a list of the parishes showing the number of houses connected and an estimate of the population served :—

	No. of houses	*No. of population served*
Alverdiscott	49	147
Ashreigney	99	297
Beaford	90	270
Buckland Filleigh	18	54
Dolton	151	453
Dowland	18	54
Frithelstock	75	225
High Bickington	91	273
Huish	14	42
Huntshaw	30	90
Langtree	107	321
Little Torrington	68	204
Merton	92	276
Peters Marland	57	171
Petrockstowe	71	213
Roborough	39	117
St. Giles	119	357
Shebbear	135	405
Sheepwash	78	224
Weare Giffard	73	219
Winkleigh	283	849
Yarnscombe	45	135

The water is treated at the source to counteract plumbo-solvency. Samples of the water are frequently taken by the Board's officials for chemical and bacteriological examination and the results are notified to the Department.

16 Samples of water were taken from private supplies and submitted for analysis.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

In conjunction with Torrington Borough Council a full-time Operator is shared by the two authorities.

The following work was carried out in the Rural District during the year :—

Number of Survey calls made :—

Private Houses	1,544
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	68
Farms	243
Business Premises	39

Number of Premises treated :—

Private Houses	198
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	18
Farms	51
Business Premises	4

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is one gut scraping establishment in the district, associated with the Winkleigh Abattoir, and this is satisfactorily operated.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Slaughtering

There are two licensed slaughter houses in the district including an abattoir at Winkleigh. 100 per cent meat inspection is at present carried out. A full time resident meat inspector is commencing duties in the new year, and this will free the Public Health Inspectors for other urgent duties.

TABLE A

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

Figures in brackets are for 1965

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs and Goats	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1409 (1393)	364 (301)	217 (179)	47795 (50839)	13715 (14268)	— (—)
Number inspected	1409 (1393)	364 (301)	217 (179)	47795 (50839)	13715 (14268)	— (—)
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned....	3 (1)	22 (11)	16 (22)	267 (324)	29 (35)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	447 (163)	155 (90)	3 (3)	5285 (5932)	2025 (1916)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	31.87 (11.71)	48.63 (33.67)	8.76 (13.80)	11.62 (12.31)	14.98 (13.67)	— (—)
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	— (—)	(—) (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (2)	— (—)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	118 (182)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1.1 (1.37)	— (—)
Cystircercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2 (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2 (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE B

Summary of Meat Condemnations with cause and weight.

Food Condemned	Weight in lbs.
Due to Tuberculosis :	
Portions of 118 Pigs	1228 *i.e.* 10cwts. 3qrs. 24lbs.
Due to Diseases other than Tuberculosis :	
Carcases and Organs of 22 Cows	8029
Carcases and Organs of 3 Cattle ...	776
Carcases and Organs of 267 Sheep	10,982
Carcases and Organs of 29 Pigs	3476
Carcases and Organs of 16 Calves	740
Parts of 155 Cows	2120
Parts of 447 Cattle	5187
Parts of 5285 Sheep	6820
Parts of 2025 Pigs	3790
Parts of 3 Calves	19
	41,939lbs.
	i.e. 18tons 14cwts. 1qr. 23lbs.

Condemned meat was disposed of through trade channels for sterilisation.

TABLE C

Other foodstuffs.

6 tins Animal food	6 tins Tomatoes	1 tin Sardines
1 tin Pineapple cubes	1 tin Baked Beans	1 tin Fruit Salad
	1 jar Pickles	

THE FOOD HYGIENE (General) REGULATIONS 1960

The following is a list of food premises in the district :—

Type of Premises	No.	No. which comply with Regulation 16	No. to which Regulation 19 applies	No. which comply with Regulation 19
Grocery and General Stores	30	29	30	30
Bakers	3	3	3	3
Butchers	4	4	4	4
Public Houses & Hotels	17	16	17	17
Cafes	6	6	6	6

22 Premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream. No ice-cream is manufactured in the district. 133 visits to food premises were made during the year.

BRUCELLA ABORTUS

The County Council take samples for Brucellosis examination in the course of normal Food & Drug sampling. Five visits to affected premises were carried out by Public Health Inspectors and in appropriate cases the milk from the farm was consigned for heat treatment, and the farmer received advice from the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT

One swill boiling plant has commenced operation in the district and has been licensed.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

32 petroleum storage licences were issued during the year.

SLAUGHTERING LICENCES

19 licences were issued during the year to slaughtermen.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

The following inspections have been carried out under the 1963 Act :-

Type of Premises	Registered in 1966	Total Registered	General Inspection
Offices	—	7	7
Retail Shops	5	15	15
Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	—	1	1
Catering Establishments	1	3	3
Totals	6	26	26

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises - 51.

Since the lighting survey, carried out in the last quarter of 1965, inadequate lighting has been replaced commonly by installation of fluorescent tube lights.

No accidents were reported during 1966.

PLANS

189 plans were submitted during the year, 163 were approved, and 26 disapproved. There were also 70 plans submitted in addition for Building Regulation approval only.

All plans were considered by the Council's Planning Committee before submission to the Divisional Planning Committee of the Devon County Council.

I attended most of the monthly meetings of the Divisional Planning Committee.

BOARDING KENNELS

Two premises are registered under the Act and 6 visits were made to them during the year.

STAFF

Mr. Walker left us in October to return to Manchester and was replaced by Mr. B. J. Dean who is already tackling his duties with enthusiasm. I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Kerswill's work over the period and to thank your Clerk, Mr. B. W. Leatt, for his assistance and co-operation. I would also like to thank Dr. Williams.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

F. G. GANE.